

Source:


Tony St. Romaine

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:Agenda Item No. REP 26-11

TO: City Council
FROM: Bill Watkins, City Manager
DATE: February 1, 2011
RE: Report from the Downtown
 Columbia Leadership Council



City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply:	
\$0	City's current net FY cost.
\$0	Amount of Funds Already appropriated
\$0	Amount of budget amendment needed
\$0	Estimated 2 yr net costs:
\$0	One-time
\$0	Operating / On-going
Program Impact:	
N	New program/ agency (Y/N)
N	Duplicates/expands an existing program (Y/N)
N	Fiscal impact on any local political subdivision (Y/N)
Resources Required:	
N	Requires add'l FTE personnel? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional facilities? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional capital equipment? (Y/N)
Mandates:	
N	Federal or state mandated? (Y/N)
Vision Implementation Impact Enter Below All That Applies: Refer to Website:	
Y	Vision Impact? (Y/N or if N, go no further)
Item #6.0	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
Item #6.1.3	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
Task #	FY10/FY11 Implementation Task#

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At its meeting of October 18, 2010, City Council asked that the Downtown Columbia Leadership Council review the report submitted by H3 Studio, Inc. regarding the downtown planning charrette. The attached report submitted by the DCLC is attached for Council consideration.

DISCUSSION:

During the summer of 2010, H3 Studio, Inc of St Louis, Mo was contracted to facilitate a downtown planning charrette focusing on two nodes in downtown Columbia – The North Village Arts District, and an area surrounding Broadway/Providence. Following a very successful public participation process which included many meetings with the public, key stakeholders, elected officials, boards and commissions, developers and other interested parties, H3 submitted their final report which was accepted by Council at their October 18th, 2010 meeting. Council recommended that the DCLC be given an opportunity to review the key findings and recommendations, and to suggest implementation priorities. Following an additional public input meeting held on January 11th, 2011 at City Hall and additional input from DCLC members at their meeting of January 25th, 2011, the attached report was prepared and approved by the DCLC.

FISCAL IMPACT: None**VISION IMPACT:**

6 Vision Statement: Downtown Columbia is a hip and vibrant district with a diversity of easily accessible businesses, residences, attractions and institutions; it is an exciting gathering place for all types of people.

6.1.3 Strategy: Create a climate where catalytic projects are financially feasible using appropriate incentives and funding sources.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Staff suggests that the City Council schedule a work session with the DCLC to review the recommendations and priorities described in their report.

COMPONENTS OF THE PREFERRED PLAN

1. **Urban Boulevard:** Make Providence Road a signature street by adding medians, street trees, safe pedestrian connections, and way-finding signage creating multiple downtown entrances.
2. **Broadway Extension:** Extend the existing streetscape strategy to 1st Street w/ curb extensions, street trees, and safe pedestrian crossings. (Extend diagonal parking to 4th Street only)
3. **Build the Corner:** Private developments and historic assets to the north of Broadway Street and east of Providence Road.
4. **Cherry Street as Armature:** Signature intimate streetscape on Cherry and Fourth Street with connections to Flat Branch & Bike Routes; Connecting Cherry Street with 9th Street.
5. **Residential/Mixed-Use Area:** Infill area surrounding Cherry Street as core neighborhood component.
6. **Cultural/Educational Amenities:** Expand cultural amenities & mixed use infill between Locust & Cherry Street.
7. **Flat Branch Park as destination:** Expansion of green space and green entry to downtown; and utilization of existing historic assets with new squares on corner as part of gateway entry.
8. **Catalytic Development Options:** New development opportunities south of Broadway Street and west of Providence Road
9. **Neighborhood Linkage:** Bike boulevard connection (with bioswales) along Park Avenue from new development to proposed North Village Park & Market



COMPONENTS OF THE PREFERRED PLAN

- Urban Boulevard:** Make College Avenue a signature street by adding medians, street trees, safe pedestrian connections, and way-finding signage.
- Campus Entrance:** Enhanced institutional development at intersection of College and Broadway.
- Hotel Gateway:** Private hotel development (with pedestrian pathway from Broadway to Walnut) as catalytic project and gateway to downtown.
- Columbia College Connector:** Enhance the pedestrian connections from Columbia College to Broadway Street.
- Neighborhood Network:** Reconfigure the street grid to the north of Walnut Street and east of College Avenue.
- Public Park/Square:** Convert Ameren UE site to public space and amenity.
- Neighborhood Stormwater:** Add bike boulevard to Park Avenue with stormwater retention for the neighborhood.
- Artist Studio's Live/Work | Trail:** Add more housing and link to future trail connection to Centralia along COLT line.
- Residential Infill Development:** Encourage a diversity of housing types throughout the priority area.
- Campus Housing:** Embrace the campus expansion plans and future student housing and development.
- Elm Street Extension:** Extend Elm Street from 10th St to College Avenue.
- Lee Expressive Arts School:** Expand and reconfigure the school grounds to create drop off and more open space.
- Development Opportunity:** Encourage private infill development and redevelopment near the campuses south of Broadway and west of College Avenue.



MAP OF THE GATEWAY CONCEPT

